

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF DEFENSE MOBILIZATION
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Preliminary Staff Paper on
Reserve of Less Than Executive Level

Background

In the Summer of 1957, several departments and agencies having Executive Reserve Units expressed a need for an additional type of reserve composed of persons of "less than executive level" qualifications. Some agencies desired to recruit and train persons already having technical qualifications in the performance of specific duties in time of emergency. Other agencies desired to recruit untrained personnel to be trained to perform technical work in an emergency.

To determine the need for a formal program, interested departments and agencies were asked to identify their requirements by number and skills. Accordingly, the following information was submitted by seven agencies.

1. Federal Communications Commission

FCC has in mind approximately 100 in the three categories -- electrical engineers, engineer technicians and engineer aides. This reserve, built largely of retirees, would be on a WAE basis in Grades 5 - 14. Indicated no shortage of personnel in these categories.

2. Federal Civil Defense Administration

Planning for about 5,000 reserves for FCDA proper (700 per Region). This number is based on the agency's emergency operating plan and staffing pattern. Authority is based on 401(c) of Public Law 920, which permits FCDA to train individuals for civil defense purposes. They are able to pay for this training under other provisions of civil defense law. However, while they can delegate authority to train, they cannot delegate authority to use funds for their own training program for the training of individuals needed by other agencies. Legislation would be required to permit this. FCDA can hire under Title III (the emergency authority of P.L.920), and has delegated this authority to other agencies. However, this comes into play only during the civil defense emergency.

FCDA reservists are in three categories -- (1) WOC's who are actually appointed, (2) Designees (earmarked for specific positions), and (3) Federal Status reservists (employees of other agencies who will be made available to FCDA under agreement with the head of the agency).

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3. Department of Defense

Has a small requirement for reserves in the intelligence field in Grades 12 - 15, and a somewhat larger requirement in the censorship field, primarily for translator-examiners in GS-5. They would expect to expand to an eventual 14,000 and believe that they should have about 4,000 reserves. Would like to give trainees about 40 hours training per year. Just completing staff work on legislation which would give the Secretary of Defense authority to train for any program, to pay compensation at the rate of the grade for which the individual is designated, and to pay travel and per diem.

4. Central Intelligence Agency

Needs a small number of specialists who would be involved in that agency's operation in a period of mobilization. CIA feels that people in these categories must be paid, whereas the Executive Reservists generally do not require pay for their time. Also stressed the necessity of establishing sometime in the near future that these civilian reservists are priority-type personnel in their relation to Selective Service and other mobilization activities.

5. U. S. Information Agency

Would require about 100 reservists in newspaper and radio functions such as editorial writers, reporters, radio programmers, newscasters, radio engineers and operating technicians. These would be in Grades 5 - 14. They have already written to about 35 selectees but found, after approaching these people, that they would not be able to appoint them under P.L. 600 as consultants. As explained above, while they could appoint them as WAE's, this does not allow them to pay travel expenses.

6. General Services Administration

Will require about 500 to 1,000 in the fields of procurement, contract specialists, engineers (for public buildings), communications, storage, freight specialists, space analysts - Grades 7 and up. They have taken no steps thus far in setting up a reserve.

7. Department of State

Indicated an interest in such a program but of a minor nature. Will give need for such a program further study.

The foregoing are the only agencies which indicated an interest. The remainder were polled and indicated no interest, at least at this time. These were Commerce, Labor, Justice, Small Business, HEW and CSC.

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Conclusions

The following conclusions seem to be fairly clear:

1. The number of reservists required is approximately 10,000.
2. The only area of conflict in recruitment might be in the field, possibly language specialists.
3. The six agencies expressing a serious and substantial interest in reserves of this nature would need additional legislation to pay reserves and, except for DoD, they are doubtful of getting the legislation without ODM help. The DoD would welcome ODM help, and would be willing to have its draft legislation broadened to include other agencies. Generally, these agencies also see some value in having ODM obtain periodic reports on the progress of recruiting and in establishing some kind of nomenclature and a method of operation which would permit the existence of this program without getting it confused with the NDER.
4. It appears that the reserve need at this level could possibly be met by FCDA delegating to interested agencies its authority to train, contained in Public Law 920 (Federal Civil Defense Act). They would need, however, some authority to pay for the training, which authority is not now available in any existing legislation. FCDA has prepared a "Staff Paper on the Extension of the Reserve Staff Program" which sets forth the authority involved and recommends the establishment of a program based on FCDA authority. It also outlines the steps necessary in establishing a reserve under this authority for civil defense purposes.
5. Several agencies interested in such a program do not view their functions as "civil defense" and would prefer a legislative base other than that contained in P.L.920.

Actions

To consider these matters, a meeting was convened by ODM with representatives of FCDA, Bureau of the Budget and Civil Service Commission. After thorough discussion, it was agreed that:

1. ODM will formally request the Civil Service Commission to study the problem and prepare a proposal for establishment and administration of a reserve of less than executive level. In developing this proposal, CSC will consult with FCDA and the other interested agencies. CSC will submit its proposal to ODM for consideration of the Interagency Committee on the National Defense Executive Reserve.
2. FCDA will examine the possibility of broadening its own statutory authority for a reserve staff and discuss it with interested agencies.